

States during the war and who endured enemy occupation.

Tuesday, July 21, 2009, marks the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Guam. Guam was attacked by the Imperial Japanese forces on December 8, 1941, at the same time that Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked, the different dates owing to the international dateline. Guam was subsequently invaded by the Imperial Japanese forces on December 10, 1941, and occupied until liberation on July 21, 1944.

The story of the people of Guam and the campaign to liberate them from occupation is an American story of courage and sacrifice. It is an important part of American history, and one of pride and determination in the face of overwhelming obstacles, barriers constructed by the Japanese war machine in the form of forced labor, forced marches, internment and public executions, and a true test of loyalty, a test that had not been asked but for a very few civilian communities under the American flag in the 20th century.

So I come to the floor today to bring honor to the Chamorros who were occupied, and to the servicemen who liberated them. The liberation of Guam from enemy occupation during World War II marked a pivotal point in Guam's history and was a key battle for the Allied Forces in ending the war in the Pacific.

The liberation of Guam by the United States Armed Forces from the Imperial Japanese Empire allowed for the first time the installation of air bases that would house land-based aerial bombers, putting them in reach of the main island of Japan. The air offenses launched from the Mariana Islands were effective in subduing the Imperial Japanese war effort, bringing the war to an end and saving the lives of many.

Prior to the Japanese invasion, Guam Armed Forces consisted of 153 marines, 271 U.S. Navy personnel, 134 civilian construction workers, and 247 Chamorro members of the Insular Guard. The Insular Guard protected the community on Guam during the invasion. During the occupation, the Imperial Japanese Forces attempted to turn the Chamorro people against the United States. But the Chamorro people remained steadfastly loyal to the United States through the 32-month occupation.

On the eve of the American landings on the island in 1944, all 22,000 Chamorro inhabitants of Guam were forced to march to Mannengon Hills and other locations to be interned in concentration camps to maintain control of the population in fear of an uprising.

This is a true story of American courage. The Chamorro people of Guam were loyal Americans at the time, and it was the first time that a foreign power invaded U.S. soil since the War of 1812. Despite fear of their captors and their will, the Chamorro people remained steadfast in their loyalty, and were brave in providing aid to the

American soldiers hiding from enemy capture. These acts of courage were punishable by death. Some experienced horrific events, massacres at Malessso' and Tinta and Faha' where Japanese soldiers herded families into caves and threw hand grenades and delivered small arms fire until dozens lay dead. Their loyalty was put to the extreme test of sacrifice.

So as we approach Liberation Day next week on Guam, we remember our elders who lived through the occupation and also the several thousand members of the U.S. Armed Forces who gave their lives while defending and liberating Guam.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, hear the prayers of Your people from across this Nation. Bring the hearts of all believers together in an act of praise and thanksgiving for Your endowment of freedom and the desire to serve You by our work and the compassionate love we show this day.

Make us instruments of peace in the midst of a world filled with suspicion, competition and self-deception.

In us and through us, manifest the gift of reconciliation and solidarity that this Congress may be strong in its purpose to serve the common good of the people and give You the glory You deserve, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2965. An act to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

ELECTING A MINORITY MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 640

Resolved, that the following member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT—Mr. Harper.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express how important it is that we pass comprehensive health reform this year that expands health insurance coverage, reins in spending, and is fiscally responsible.

The health reform package that the committees will consider this week shows a genuine commitment to reversing the current unsustainable trends, to providing stability for hard-working Americans, and to being fiscally responsible. There is no question that we must take action and that our actions must be fully paid for. With these ground rules, we face difficult decisions, many of which may not be politically popular, but my colleagues and I on Ways and Means are fully committed to paying for this essential legislation.

Our current path in delivering health care is unsustainable, and I share with you some disturbing figures from my home State of New Jersey that illustrates the point.

New Jerseyans are paying more and getting less. Between 2000 and 2007, the average New Jersey worker's share of family premiums nearly doubled, outpacing the growth in wages nearly five times over.

Mr. Speaker, we must act this week, and we must act with all due resolve.